17. 2437/2438 Nizamuddin-Secunderabad

18. 2443/2444 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar *via* Tatanagar

19. 2423A/2424A Guwahati-Dibrugarh

20. 2435A/2436A Guwahati-Dibrugarh

Export of cow meat

†4444. SHRI B. P. SINGHAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a train full of cow meat is sent every day or on alternate day to Mumbai for export from Tuglakabad, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the said train is fully air-conditioned and its doors remain closed completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) Meat is not transported by Railway trains. However, refrigerated containers owned by Shipping Lines are delivered to Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) for transport on Tughlakabad-Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) route. As per the details furnished to CONCOR through shipping bills filed by the consignors, frozen buffalo meat has been carried in these containers.

Darbhanga-Muzaffarpur rail line

†4445. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the then Minister of Railways has ordered to conduct survey for the construction of Darbhanga-Laheriasarai-Muzaffarpur rail line in 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome of the survey and what action has been taken by Government on that;

(c) whether present 110 k.m. distance of Darbhanga-Smastipur-Muzaffarpur rail line will be reduced to 49 k.m. only as a result of constructing of new rail line which would save time and money ; and

(d) if so, the details of plan of Government to construct this line ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS : (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) An updating survey for new line from Muzaffarpur to Darbhanga was taken up in 1996-97 and completed in November, 1996. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of 65.54 km. long line was assessed as Rs. 107.78 crore with a negative rate of return. The proposal could not be considered due to unremunerative nature and acute financial constraints.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does no arise.

Extension of rail lines in North-Eastern States

4446. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prepared perspective plans to extend Railways into the North-Eastern States of Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya ;

(b) if so, the scope and time-frame of such plans; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not extending rail linkages into these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) The works of Harmuti-Itanagar and Diphu-Karong new lines have been included in the Budget. However, based on request of State Governments, surveys for alternative alignments from Bedeti-Itanagar and Jiribam-Imphal have been taken up. The survey from Jiribam to Imphal has been completed and has been processed further. The completion of these projects would depend upon availability of resources.

Furthermore, the following surveys for new lines are also in progress :—

	Line	*State Involved*
(i)	Jogighopa-Silchar	Meghalaya, Assam
(ii)	Azra-Byrnihat	Mehgalaya, Assam
(iii)	Dimapur-Kohima	Nagaland
(iv)	Bhairabi-Sairang	Mizoram